

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming portion configured to form a visible
5 image on a recording sheet; and

a sheet storing portion configured to store a plurality
of recording sheets and sequentially feed recording sheets to
said image forming portion, wherein:

a sheet tray storing a stack of recording sheets is provided
10 in said sheet storing portion such that the sheet tray is movable
in the horizontal direction relative to the main body of the
apparatus; and

the sheet tray is movable in any of two directions
substantially orthogonal to each other.

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2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein:

said sheet tray is provided in a tray pullout frame that
is movable in one direction relative to the main body of the
20 apparatus; and

the sheet tray is movable in a direction substantially
orthogonal to the direction in which the pullout frame is pulled
out relative to the main body of the apparatus.

25 3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2,

further comprising:

a handle unit supported to be exposed on the outer side of the main body of the image forming apparatus and engaged with said sheet tray while said tray pullout frame is stored
5 in the apparatus main body, wherein:

said handle unit is coupled with said sheet tray and is movable in the horizontal direction; and

when said tray pullout frame is pulled out, the sheet tray and said handle unit are disengaged.

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4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

said sheet tray is movable both in the direction in which said tray pullout frame is pulled out and in the direction of
15 the axis line orthogonal to said direction.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a transport path that transports recording sheets
20 sequentially fed from said sheet storing portion to said image forming portion, wherein:

a plurality of said sheet trays and tray pullout frames are both placed on each other in the vertical direction, and the direction in which the tray pullout frame is pulled out
25 coincides with the direction in which said recording sheets

are fed; and

said transport path is provided so that a recording sheet fed from one sheet tray is penetrated through the tray pullout frames storing the other trays in the vertical direction.

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6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

the front part of said tray pullout frame in the direction in which said tray pullout frame is pulled out is openable so
10 that said transport path is exposed while the tray pullout frame is stored in the apparatus main body of the apparatus.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

15 a feed roll that sequentially feeds recording sheets from said sheet tray is supported by said tray pullout frame.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

20 said sheet tray is pivotably supported in the horizontal direction around the lateral back side of the sheet tray in the direction of pulling out the sheet tray while said sheet tray is pulled out from the apparatus main body and said tray pullout frame.

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9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 8,
wherein

one of the rotating shaft in the vertical direction and
a bearing rotatably holding the rotating shaft is fixed to said
5 sheet tray, and the other is fixed to the apparatus main body;

said rotating shaft and said bearing is movable relative
to each other and detachable in the horizontal direction; and

said sheet tray pivots around said rotating shaft while
the rotating shaft is mounted to the bearing.

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10. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
further comprising:

an upper unit provided on a housing storing said image
forming portion and said sheet storing portion, and having an
15 operation panel, wherein

the upper unit is settable so that in which direction
the front side of said operation panel is set is selectable
among a plurality of directions on said housing.

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11. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming portion that forms a visible image on
a recording sheet;

a sheet storing portion that stores a plurality of
recording sheets and sequentially supplying recording sheets
25 to said image forming portion; and

a transport path that transports the recording sheets sequentially supplied by said sheet storing portion to said image forming portion, wherein:

5 said sheet storing portion comprises a plurality of sheet trays that are placed on each other in the vertical direction and is movable in the horizontal direction relative to the apparatus main body;

the direction in which the sheet tray is pulled out coincides with the direction in which said recording sheets
10 are fed; and

said transport path is provided to run from one tray and penetrate through the other trays in the vertical direction.

12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 11,
15 wherein

said front portion of said sheet tray in the direction in which said sheet tray is pulled out is openable so that said transport path is exposed while said sheet tray is stored in the apparatus main body.

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13. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming portion configured to form a visible image on a recording paper sheet;

a recording paper sheet storing portion configured to
25 store a plurality of recording paper sheets and sequentially

feed recording paper sheets to said image forming portion;
a discharge tray provided above said image forming portion
configured to hold recording paper sheets discharged from said
image forming portion;

5 an operation portion configured to input a driving signal
for said image forming portion; and

a paper sheet transport path configured to transport a
recording paper sheet taken out from said recording paper sheet
storing portion along the front surface where said operation
10 portion is provided to said discharge tray through said image
forming portion, wherein:

said paper sheet transport path includes a transport path
cover open to the front side; and

said recording paper sheet storing portion includes a
15 paper feed tray that is movable to a lateral side.

14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13,
wherein

said recording paper sheet storing portion includes a
20 plurality of paper feed trays placed one on each other in the vertical
direction and each said paper feed tray has a handle at its
front side end used to pull out the paper feed tray.

15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13,
25 wherein

said paper feed tray is supported pivotably in the horizontal direction around the back of the paper feed tray in the tray pullout direction toward the front side of the main body of the image forming apparatus while the paper feed tray
5 is pulled out from the image forming apparatus.

16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 15, wherein:

one of the rotating shaft in the vertical direction and
10 a bearing holding the rotating shaft rotatably around the axis line is fixed to said paper feed tray, the other is fixed to the main body of the image forming apparatus;

said rotating shaft and said bearing is movable relative to each other in the horizontal direction and attached/detached
15 to/from each other;

said rotating shaft is mounted to said bearing while said paper feed tray is pulled out; and

said paper feed tray pivots around the rotating shaft toward the front side.

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17. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein

said transport path cover is divided into a plurality of parts in the vertical direction, each said transport path
25 cover part is pivoted around the horizontal axis line to open

the transport path, and the height-wise sizes of said transport path cover parts are substantially the same.